

REMARKS

The indication of allowable subject matter in claim 11 is acknowledged with appreciation. By this amendment, independent claims 1, 10 and 17 have been amended to include the features of allowable claim 11. Amended claim 11 recites that the biopolymer is xanthan gum. Claims 1-13 and 15-21 are presented for further examination.

The rejection of Claims 1-10, 12, 13 and 15-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over WO 02/12414 in view of Chesser (U.S. 6933262) has been rendered moot by the foregoing amendments.

In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

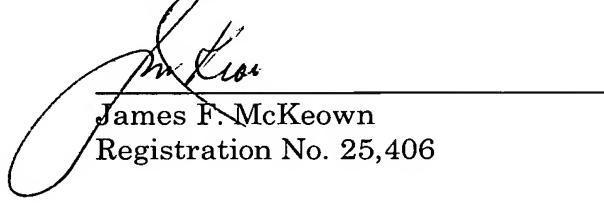
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2675 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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Reply to Office Action
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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #080395.52959C1).

Respectfully submitted,

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James F. McKeown
Registration No. 25,406

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JFM:MWR:elew (2730557)